8. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of said O plate and/or planar A plate is from 0.1 to 10 μm.

9. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of said O plate is from 6 to 300 nm.

10. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of said planar A plate is from 12 to 575 nm.

11. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the O plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a tilted or splayed structure.

12. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the planar A plate comprise a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a planar structure.

13. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the C plates is a negatively birefringent polymer film.

15. (Amended) Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that the C plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized chiral liquid crystalline material with a helically twisted structure.

17. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising the following elements

- a liquid crystal cell formed by two transparent substrates having surfaces which oppose each other, an electrode layer provided on the inside of at least one of said two transparent substrates and optionally superposed with an alignment layer, and a liquid crystal medium which is present between the two transparent substrates,

- a polarizer arranged outside said transparent substrates, or a pair of polarizers sandwiching said substrates, and

- at least one optical compensator according to claim 1 being situated between the liquid crystal cell and at least one of said polarizers,

it being possible for the above elements to be separated, stacked, mounted on top of each other, coated on top of each other or connected by means of adhesive layers.